



STORIES of STRANGE ADVENTURE

NO 39 DEC.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

REMEMBER
THE
ALAMO!

Remember THE ALAMO!
AN ANCIENT WAR-
CRY ECHOES DOWN THE
CORRIDORS OF TIME---
INTO THE PRESENT!
GET SET FOR THE STRANGEST
STORY YOU'VE EVER READ
"The DAVY CROCKETT
MYSTERY!"

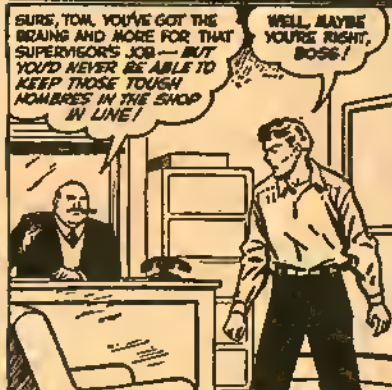


ORSON
WELLES



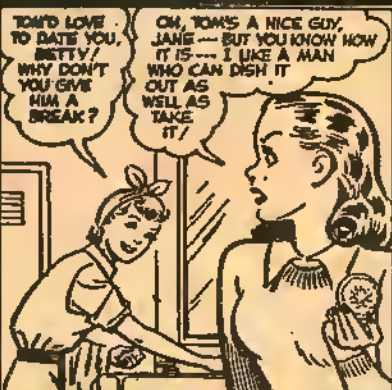
WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

HOW 'MINI-GYM' TURNS PLANT "DRIP" INTO SUCCESS DYNAMO



SURE, TOM, YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS AND MORE FOR THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB—BUT YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TOUGH HOMBRES IN THE SHOP IN LINE!

WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS!



TOM'D LOVE TO DATE YOU, BETTY! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK?

OH, TOM'S A NICE GUY, JANE—BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS—I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN DISH IT OUT AS WELL AS TAKE IT!



IT'S NO USE, SAM—I'M MOVING ON! I'M WORSE THAN A WASH-OUT IN THIS PLANT! I CAN'T GET PROMOTIONS LIKE YOU!

TAKE IT EASY, TOM! ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY, 10-MINUTE WORK-OUT WITH 'MINI-GYM' AND YOU'LL SOON BE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY! HERE, LOOK AT THIS AD!



GOSH, SAM, I'M A NEW MAN! AHA I GLAD YOU MADE ME CLIP THAT 'MINI-GYM' COUPON! WATCH ME DO JOE BONOMO'S TRICKY EXERCISE TO AGAIN! IT'S A KILLER-KILLER!

GO TO IT, KID! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD THE STUFF, BUT IT TAKES 'MINI-GYM' TO GIVE A MAN TOP TRAINING!



NEXT TIME, FELLER, YOU'D BETTER THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU START SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH AT ME!

OH, TOM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

HONEST, TOM, I-I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING!

TWO MONTHS LATER...



THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB IS YOURS, TOM! AND I DON'T HAVE TO WISH YOU LUCK! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A REAL 'COMER' WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUCK!

THANKS, BOSS! I'LL MAKE GOOD... AND NOW!

AMBITIOUS MAN
OF ALL AGES
TO GET WHAT YOU WANT
OUT OF LIFE GET IT WITH
JOE BONOMO'S
MINI-GYM!
3.95

Packs All The Punch Of a Big, Expensive Gym, Including . . .

• Rowing Machine • Wall Exercises • Tension Pulls • Bicycles

Why let the other fellow walk away with the job . . . and girl that should be yours? Life's prize goes to the smart man who keeps himself in "prime" physical condition. It's easy with the marvellous, new 'MINI-GYM'. For with this new wonder exerciser, you can . . .

Get A Real Kick Out Of Keeping Fit

Man alive, you haven't really lived 'til you get your eager hands (Yes, and feet, too) into Joe Bonomo's best-all exerciser, the unique, new 'MINI-GYM'! Even though you hated exercise before, with superb 'MINI-GYM' and Joe Bonomo's big, new personal instruction book . . . you'll eat it up! Find yourself acting like a kid again . . . and loving it!

See New Post 'MINI-GYM' Helps Get You Into A-1 Shape!

You bet, almost before you know it, a daily session with 'MINI-GYM' can help you become the kind of well-toned, alert man most bosses like to have around them . . . and girls go for fastest! Can't help but be, for this new "miracle" 'MINI-GYM' is a revelation meaning it does a 100% job of building YOU! Toning, strengthening and pepping up every muscle in your whole body!

'MINI-GYM'S' Perfected By The Famous JOE BONOMO! World-famous, professional strong man himself, Joe Bonomo knows what it takes to build the physically perfect man! (Yes, and woman, too!) And he's put all his first-hand knowledge into the design of this terrific, new exerciser! So in 'MINI-GYM' you've got everything it takes for genuine, professional body-building!

'MINI-GYM'S' Great For Women, Too! Though 'MINI-GYM' is plenty tough for the professional athlete, it's easy enough to be handled . . . and enjoyed . . . by any teen-age girl or small woman. How come? Because Joe Bonomo designed 'MINI-GYM' for girls and women, too! Especially those who want to develop real pep, alluring curves and a super-gorgeous figure! No wonder girls everywhere go for 'MINI-GYM' in a big, BIG way!



FREE Joe Bonomo's Personal Instruction Book

Every thrill-packed page written for you by Joe Bonomo, this big, 64-page book, printed in 2 colors, gives you a complete 'MINI-GYM' health course. For more than an instruction manual, it's an all-round, all-over Body Condition Control! Complete with 90 especially posed photos, charts, and fun-to-follow text. Slip: 3 1/2" x 8 1/2". YOURS FREE with your 'MINI-GYM'!

You Can't Be Too Old For 'MINI-GYM'! Thirties or 30, 35 or 40, once you see 'MINI-GYM', you can't wait to try it! Why? Because 'MINI-GYM' adapts instantly to the exercise needs . . . and thrills . . . of any age and all physical conditions from the weakest to the strongest!

POSITIVE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

Yes, it means just that! Order your 'MINI-GYM' today. Then test it in every way possible . . . exercising with it and enjoy it for 10 exciting days. If you are not satisfied in every way . . . in fact, delighted . . . just return 'MINI-GYM', and your money will be instantly refunded! Fair enough, isn't it?

'MINI-GYM' CORP.

1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.



END NO
MONEY!
NOW!

Order Your 'MINI-GYM' by MODEL 5, M or L.

MODEL B
☐ If you are under 5 ft. tall

MODEL M
☐ If you are 5 ft. to 5 ft. 10 in. tall

MODEL L
☐ If you are over 5 ft. 10 in. tall

'MINI-GYM' CORP., Dept. ACG-1
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

RUSH ME one complete 'MINI-GYM', MODEL _____, with 64-page Joe Bonomo Course Book. I will deposit \$3.95, plus postage, with postman. If I am not satisfied in every way, I may return 'MINI-GYM' and Book within 10 days for full refund.

NAME _____
STREET _____
Print Plainly Please

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____
I enclose \$3.95. You pay postage. Same money-back guarantee. (Canadian and Foreign Orders, \$4.95. Cash with orders.)

IT'S A DIFFICULT THING TO SEPARATE FOLK LORE FROM FACT...MAYBE BECAUSE PEOPLE BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE! THERE'S NO BETTER PROOF OF THIS THAN THE SERIES OF STRANGE LEGENDS WHICH HAVE DRIFTED DOWN TO US FOR OVER A CENTURY...GAINING RENEWED IMPETUS FROM AN AMAZING HAPPENING DURING WORLD WAR II! HERE IT IS, THE INCREDIBLE STORY MEN CALL...



IT WAS THE YEAR 1944...AS LT. GENERAL ROCKY McDOUGAL, COMMANDER OF THE PACIFIC ARENA, WINGED HIS WAY BACK FROM AN INSPECTION TOUR...

WISH WE WERE BACK AT THE BASE, SIR! THE JAPS ARE TOO THICK IN THESE PARTS TO SUIT ME!

ALWAYS WORRYING, BOB! WE HAVEN'T SPOTTED ONE OF THEIR PLANES AROUND HERE FOR WEEKS!



IT CAME WITH COMPLETE SUDDENNESS WHEN...



CRIPPLED BY THE FIRST BURST, THE AMERICAN PLANE PLUMMETED TOWARDS A NEARBY ISLAND IN A DRAMATIC CRASH LANDING...



HEADQUARTERS PICKED UP THE S.O.S. FROM THE WRECKED CRAFT AND ALERTED THE NEAREST AMERICAN TROOPS...

LUCKY OUR ATOLL WASN'T FAR AWAY! GENERAL MCDOUGAL HIMSELF... **WOW!** IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO HIM, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BODY BLOW TO OUR WAR EFFORT!

WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN HIM OUT YET! IF THERE ARE JAPS ON THAT ISLAND, WE MAY BE IN FOR A **FIGHT!** BUT WE'D BE WORSE OFF IF A FEW REPLACEMENTS HADN'T COME IN LAST NIGHT!



YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEW REPLACEMENTS, EH, SOLDIER? SOME INITIATION! JUST COME IN, AND **WHAM! ACTION!**

MISTER... THAT'S WHAT I **CRAVE!**



THEY LANDED, AND LOCATED THEIR COMMANDER ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE SEARCH...

OUR LANDING CRAFT'S FAIRLY DISTANT, SIR! IT'LL MEAN SOME HARD CLIMBING OVER THE RIDGE, CONSIDERING WE'LL BE MOVING INJURED MEN!

I KNOW I COULDN'T TRUST MYSELF TO BETTER HANDS, LIEUTENANT! **LET'S GO!**



WELL, SOLDIER, LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GETTIN' OUTA THIS WITH BELLS ON! NO SIGN O' NIPS SO FAR!

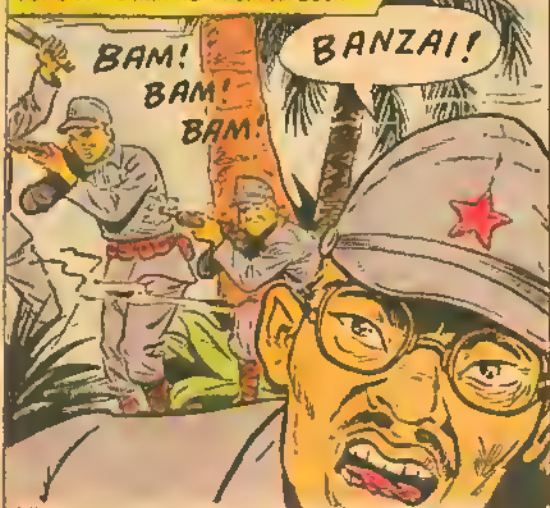
I AIN'T SO SHORE! THIS CHILE RECKON HE SMELLS **TROUBLE!**



WHOEVER HE WAS, THE TALL GI WAS RIGHT! FOR NEXT MOMENT... STRIKING FROM AMBUSH...

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

BANZAI!



THERE COULD BE BUT ONE STRATEGY... **RETREAT!** FOR THE YANKS WERE OUTMANNED... AND THE COMMANDER ENDANGERED...

YOU THERE... **COME ON!** WE... WE NEED EVERY MAN IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO MAKE IT!

HERE'S **ONE** HOMBRE YUH'RE GITTIN' ALONG **WITHOUT**, MISTER! ME, I'M STAYIN' **HERE!**





RECKON I KIN HOLD 'EM BACK FROM HERE FER AWHILE...MEBBS UNTIL YUH KIN GET THE GENERAL OFF!

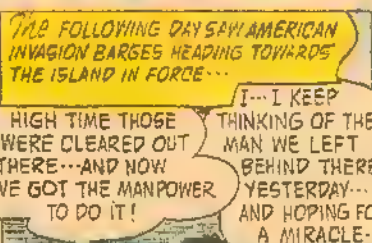
FELLA, I NEVER HAD TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOU... BUT YOU'RE ALL MAN!



NOW HE WAS ALONE... ONE MAN TO STEM THE TIDE! BEFORE THE DEADLY ACCURACY OF HIS GUNFIRE...



THIS SHOOTIN'-STICK AIN'T EXACTLY LIKE OL BETSY... BUT SHE'LL DO!



THE FOLLOWING DAY SAW AMERICAN INVAGION BARGES HEADING TOWARDS THE ISLAND IN FORCE...

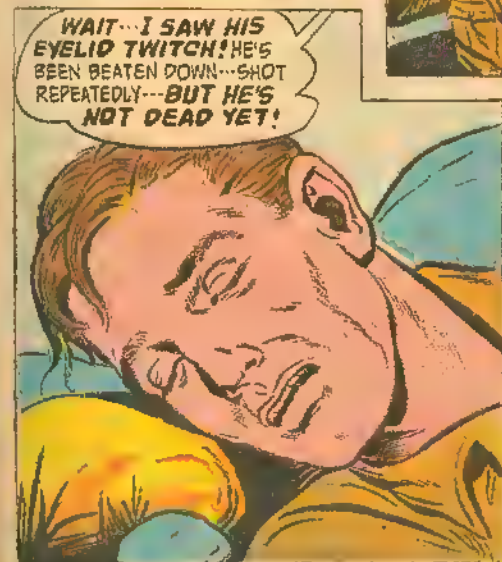
IT'S HIGH TIME THOSE JAPS WERE CLEARED OUT OF THERE... AND NOW WE'VE GOT THE MANPOWER TO DO IT!

I... I KEEP THINKING OF THE MAN WE LEFT BEHIND THERE YESTERDAY... AND HOPING FOR A MIRACLE...



BUT THE MIRACLE WASN'T FORTHCOMING! INSTEAD THEY FOUND...

THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY IT COULD END... BUT LOOK AT THE JAPS HE TOOK WITH HIM! IT'S... MONUMENTAL!

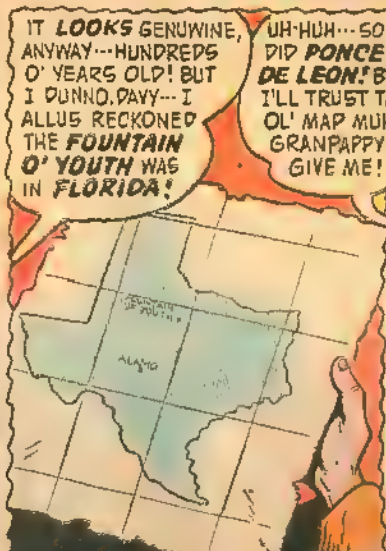
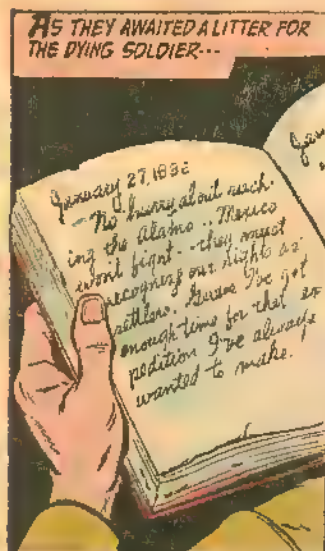


WAIT... I SAW HIS EYELID TWITCH! HE'S BEEN BEATEN DOWN... SHOT REPEATEDLY... BUT HE'S NOT DEAD YET!

WHAT MANNER OF MAN WAS THIS, TO WITHSTAND WHAT SHOULD HAVE SPELLED INSTANT DEATH A HUNDRED TIMES OVER? IT WAS THEN THAT THEY NOTED THE OLD, TATTERED BOOK CLUTCHED IN HIS HAND...

HMMM... LOOKS LIKE THE FELLA KEPT A DIARY! THE NAME'S LOCKETT, OR CROCKETT, OR SOMETHING!





THEN... A SAVAGE
CNSLAUGHT!

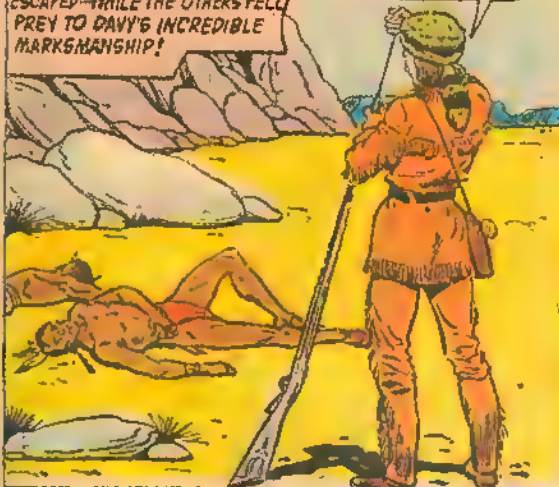
KI-YA-YI-YI!!

INJUNS!
TAKE COVER
AN' FIGHT!

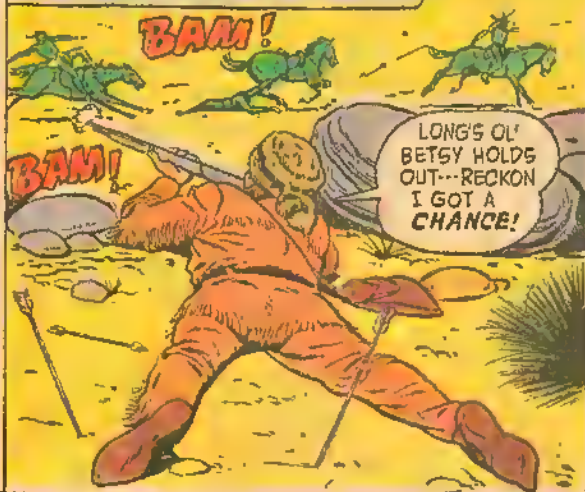


I GUESS THEY
WERE JUST YOUNG
BRAVES, FEELIN' THEIR
OATS! TOO BAD...

A CHANCE? ONLY ONE
MORTALLY-WOUNDED REDSKIN
ESCAPED--WHILE THE OTHERS FELL
PREY TO DAVE'S INCREDIBLE
MARKSMANSHIP!



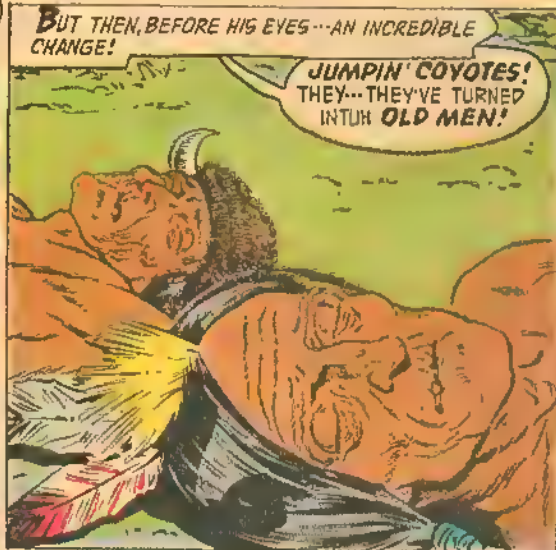
BUT HIS FRIEND FELL BEFORE A WAR ARROW...LEAVING DAVE
TO CARRY ON THE UNEQUAL FIGHT ALONE...



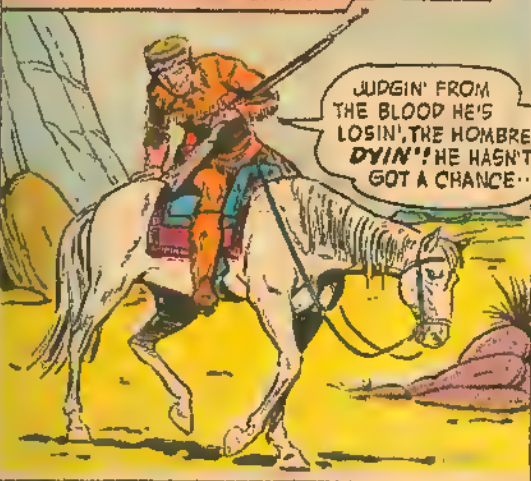
LONG'S OL'
BETSY HOLDS
OUT--RECKON
I GOT A
CHANCE!

BUT THEN, BEFORE HIS EYES...AN INCREDIBLE
CHANGE!

JUMPIN' COYOTES!
THEY--THEY'VE TURNED
INTUH OLD MEN!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE HOPE OF SOLVING THE PUZZLE
OF THE ANCIENT INDIANS, AND THAT WAS TO FOLLOW
THE TRAIL OF THE WOUNDED MAN...



JUDGEIN' FROM
THE BLOOD HE'S
LOSIN', THE HOMBRE'S
DYIN'! HE HASN'T
GOT A CHANCE...

BUT THE STRICKEN REDSKIN HAD FOUND HELP! EVEN AS THE
SIGNS OF INCREDIBLE AGE SPREAD OVER HIS FACE...



QUICK, BEFORE
THE GREAT SPIRIT
CLAIMS HIM!

THEY CARRIED HIM TO A CRYSTAL-CLEAR FOUNTAIN
DEEP WITHIN THE CAVE--SUPPORTED HIM AS HE
DRANK WEAKLY...



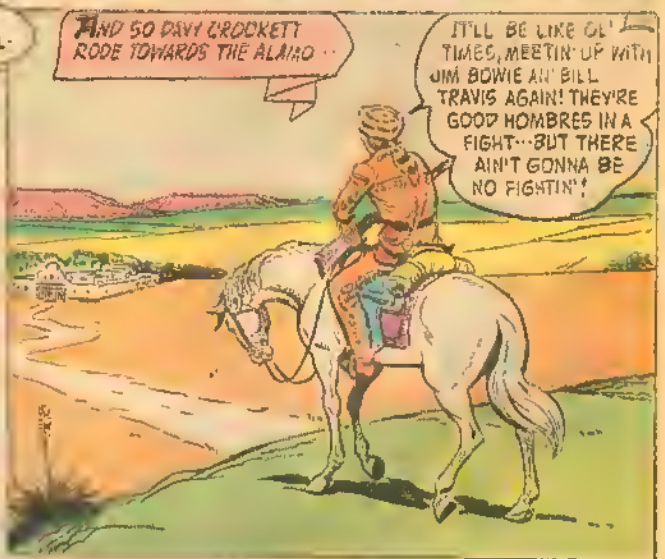
SO THAT'S IT!
ANYWAY, THE STORY ABOUT
THE FOUNTAIN WAS TRUE!
BETTER SNEAK OUT CAREFUL-
LIKE--BEFORE THOSE
VARMINTS SPOT
ME!



AND AS HE SWALLOWED,
SOMETHING STRANGE AND
AMAZING HAPPENED! ONCE
MORE HIS FACE GREW
YOUNG--HE GAINED
STRENGTH...

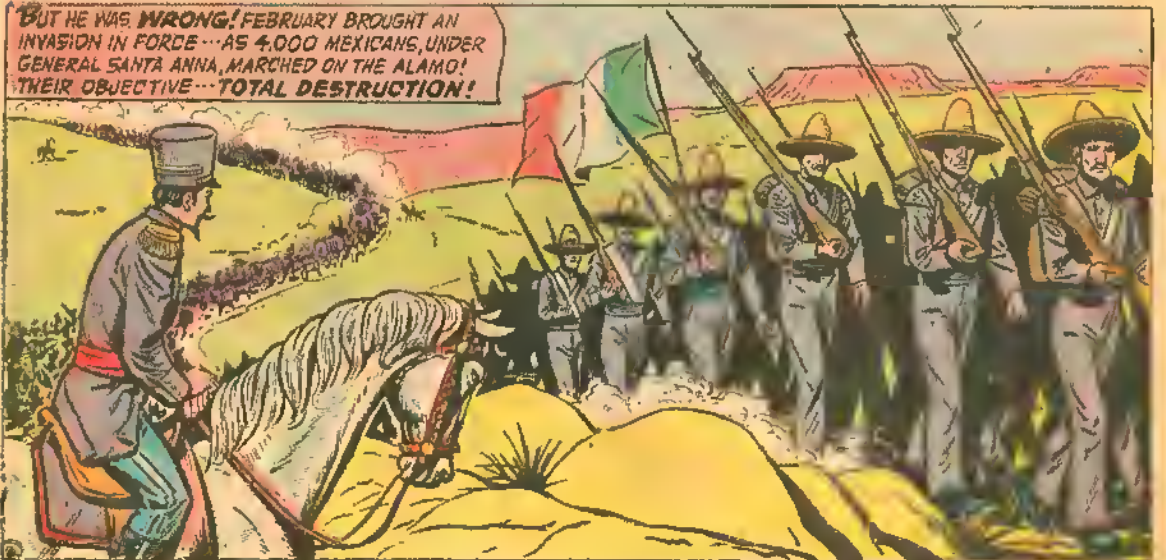


AND SO DAVY CROCKETT
RODE TOWARDS THE ALAMO...



IT'LL BE LIKE OL'
TIMES, MEETIN' UP WITH
JIM BOWIE AN' BILL
TRAVIS AGAIN! THEY'RE
GOOD HOMBRES IN A
FIGHT--BUT THERE
AIN'T GONNA BE
NO FIGHTIN'!

BUT HE WAS **WRONG**! FEBRUARY BROUGHT AN
INVASION IN FORCE...AS 4,000 MEXICANS, UNDER
GENERAL SANTA ANNA, MARCHED ON THE ALAMO!
THEIR OBJECTIVE--TOTAL DESTRUCTION!



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

HI KIDS! GET IN MY DAVY CROCKETT PLAYHOUSE TENT!

GET YOURS
\$1.00
ONLY 1 CENTS

Davy Crockett Frontier life is here for your kiddies to thrill and enjoy in this large size Davy Crockett playhouse tent. Think of it! In your own back yard where the kiddies can play safely you can set this tent up in a jiffy for frontier and pioneer enjoyment. Even set it up in the house on rainy days. It's a full 10 ft. around. Large enough for your kiddies to play in with their friends. Presto Chango you set it up in seconds. No tools needed. Slips over any standard card table. Made of sturdy, durable, washable, safe—flameproof DuPont plastic. The realistic Davy Crockett design adds a picturesque touch of realism. Now, for the first time, can your kiddies live in the great outdoors just like America's favorite hero Davy Crockett. This Davy Crockett playhouse tent brings the wild woolly West right to your door. Rush your order while supplies are available at the low price of \$1.00 for your complete Davy Crockett playhouse tent.

**AN
IDEAL
GIFT**

**LARGE
ENOUGH FOR 2 KIDS
SETS UP IN A JIFFY
NO TOOLS NEEDED**

Now your favorite kiddies anywhere can be happy with a gift of this giant Davy Crockett playhouse tent.

STURDILY BUILT OF DU PONT DURABLE PLASTIC

No matter how rough the kiddies abuse this heavy plastic giant Davy Crockett playhouse tent it will withstand their vicious attacks. Makes realizing how rough kiddies can be have used extra heavy plastic to ensure long, long wear. It has already been hoisted by parents as a wonderful plaything creation. Your kiddies will enjoy it, too. Order yours today.

10 DAYS FREE TRIAL

Order your giant Davy Crockett playhouse tent at our risk. Set it up and let the kiddies play with it. If not delighted return in 10 days for full refund of the purchase price. Supplies are limited. Price is \$1.00 plus 25c for postage, packing and handling. Only 3 to a customer. Rush coupon now before this offer is withdrawn.

House of Thomas Inc., Dept. AC 10
400 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y.
Send your newly created, colorful, complete giant Davy Crockett playhouse tent at once. It is understood if I am not delighted after 10 day trial I will return for full refund of the purchase price.
☐ I enclose \$1.00 plus 25c for postage, for each giant Davy Crockett playhouse tent ordered.

NAME.....

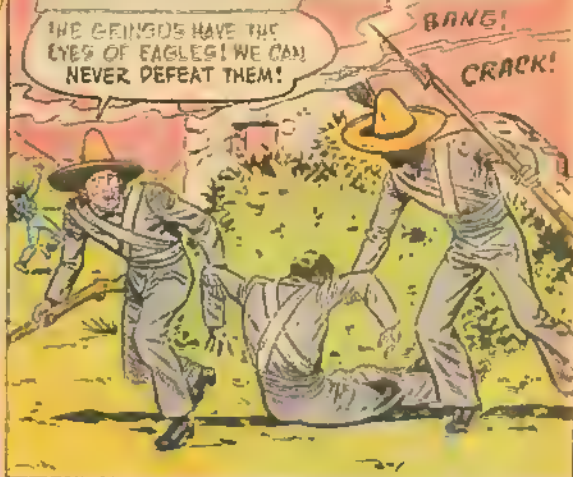
ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....

IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A GRUELING 13-DAY SIEGE, LASTING FROM FEBRUARY 23RD TO MARCH 6TH, 1836! LED BY THE DAUNTLESS DAVE CROCKETT, 180 OUTNUMBERED TEXANS FOUGHT ON BRAVELY...



BUT FOR EVERY MAN OF THE ALAMO'S HEROIC GARRISON THAT FELL, THE MEXICANS PAID DEARLY! OVER 500 OF THEM PAID THE PRICE...



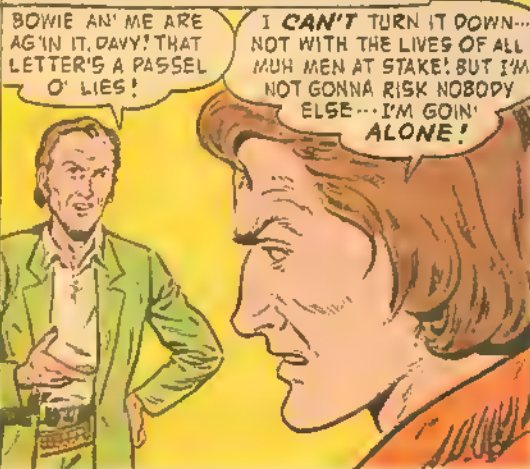
THE EVIL SANTA ANNA KNEW THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE, AND QUICKLY...



AND SO HE SENT AN EMISSARY INTO THE ALAMO UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE, BEARING A PERSONAL LETTER TO COLONEL CROCKETT! IN IT, HE ADMITTED THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EVER TAKING THE ALAMO...



THE MEXICAN PROPOSED MEETING IMMEDIATELY AT A NEUTRAL SPOT HALFWAY BETWEEN THE ALAMO AND THE MEXICAN LINES FOR THE SIGNING...



AND SO DAVE CROCKETT RODE OUT OF THE ALAMO... LITTLE KNOWING THE BLACK TREACHERY HE FACED...



THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEADERS WENT OFF SWIMMINGLY...

SANTA ANNA'S ALL SMILES! THINGS MUST BE GOIN' FINE!

WE'LL BE OUTA HERE PRONTO! DAVY'LL FIX THINGS!



THE TRUCE WAS SIGNED! HAPPILY, COLONEL CROCKETT HEADED BACK TOWARDS HIS COMRADES --- UNWARE THAT ---



THE BEST SHARPSHOOTER IN SANTA ANNA'S ARMY TOOK AIM... AND FIRED!

BAM!



THE NEXT MOMENT, CONCEALING SHRUBBERY WAS SWEEPED ASIDE... AND HIDDEN ARTILLERY BLASTED AWAY AT THE TEXANS CLUSTERED IN THE OPENED GATES OF THE ALAMO!

BOOM!



THE ALAMO NEVER RECOVERED FROM THIS TREACHEROUS BLOW! IT FELL... AND EVERY BRAVE DEFENDER MET DEATH! BUT AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BATTLE, DAVY CROCKETT RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS...

THEY'RE... BEIN' WIPED OUT... AND I CAN'T HELP 'EM! I'M... TERRIBLY WOUNDED... DYIN'...

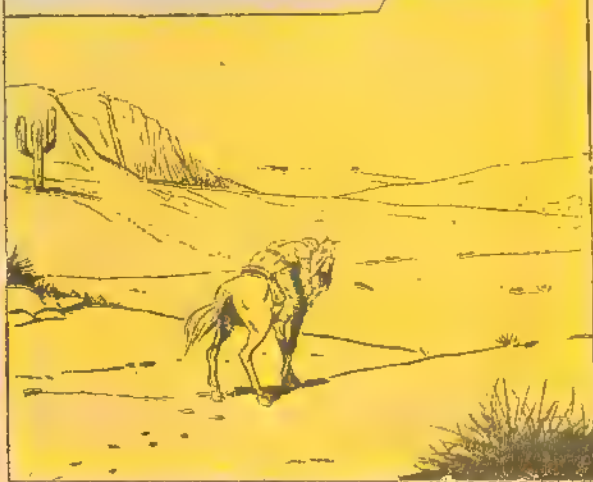


HE HAD BARELY ENOUGH STRENGTH TO CALL TO HIS HORSE... TO PULL HIMSELF WEAKLY INTO THE SADDLE...

THAT... INJUN... HE WAS IN A BAD WAY, TOO! MAYBE... IF I CAN GET THERE...

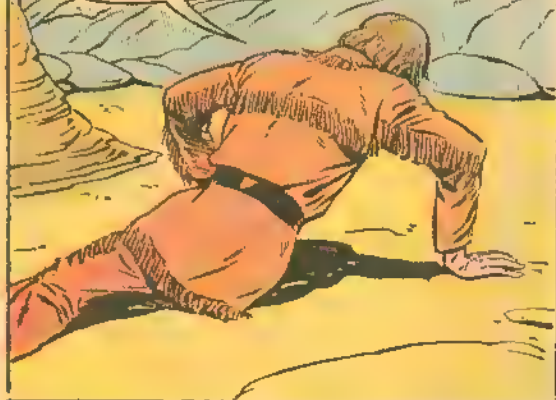


HE RODE AWAY... REMEMBERING A MORTALLY-INJURED BRAVE... A LIFE-RESTORING FOUNTAIN THAT MIGHT ENABLE HIM TO LIVE ON AND GAIN REVENGE...



HOW HE MADE IT HE NEVER KNEW, BUT...

GOT TO... REACH IT! CAN'T GIVE UP... NOW...



HE DRANK... AND FELT A NEW STRENGTH SURGING THROUGH HIM!



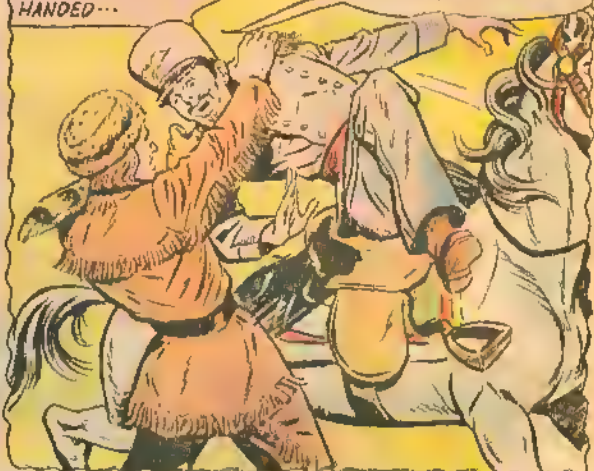
HE COULD FIGHT NOW... HE COULD AVENGE HIS COMRADES! AND ON APRIL 21ST, 1836, IT WAS HIS RALLYING CRY THAT TURNED THE TIDE AGAINST SANTA ANNA AT THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO!

REMEMBER THE ALAMO!



FIGHTING LIKE A DEMON, HE CAPTURED SANTA ANNA SINGLE-HANDED...

NO, NO... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE DEAD... YOU'RE DEAD...



I... I CAN'T HELP IT, COLONEL... BUT THIS DIARY HAS THE STAMP OF UNMISTAKABLE TRUTH ABOUT IT!

NONSENSE, LIEUTENANT! IT'S EITHER A HOAX, OR THE MAN'S INSANE! ER... SEE WHAT ELSE HE HAS TO SAY!



June 29, 1898
- I can hardly believe the year. I'm 112 years old... the draught from that fountain 62 years ago has kept me alive and young. I'm still avenging my comrades... that's why I've enlisted in the Spanish-American War. I'm with the First Volunteer Cavalry at Santiago...

THE MEN ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT SPOILED RATIONS, COL. ROOSEVELT!

THEY'VE GOT A RIGHT TO COMPLAIN! OH, IF ONLY WE HAD SOME GOOD FRESH MEAT!



SILENTLY, A TALL SOLDIER ROSE FROM BESIDE A CAMPFIRE...AND HEADED FOR THE WOODS!



YOU, THERE! THOSE WOODS ARE DANGEROUS...THERE ARE WILD ANIMALS! COME BACK!

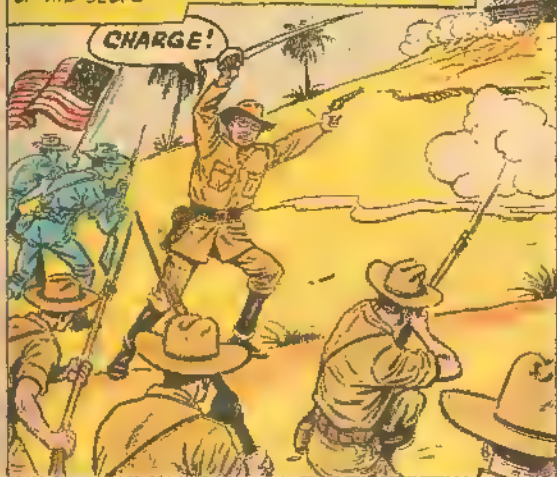
WHEN HE RETURNED...

SURE WE NEEDED FRESH MEAT...BUT I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR A SHOT!



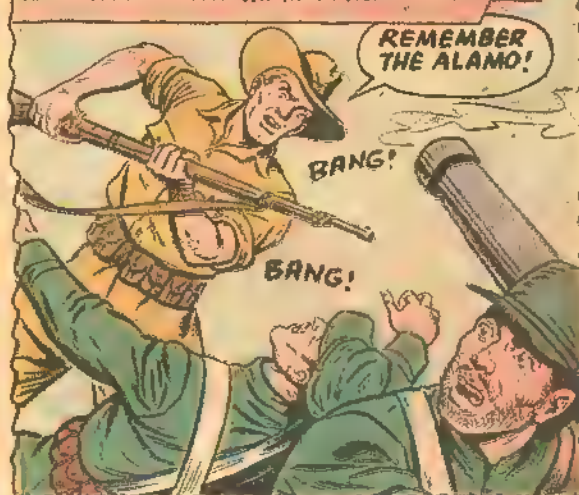
I DIDN'T WANNA SHOOT, COLONEL ROOSEVELT...WHY TELL THE ENEMY WHERE WE'RE AT? SO I JEST NATURALLY GRINNED THIS BAR DOWN OUTTA A TREE!

THEN CAME THE BATTLE OF SAN JUAN HILL! IT WAS TEDDY ROOSEVELT THAT HEADED THE GREAT CHARGE UP THE SLOPE...



CHARGE!

...BUT IT WAS DAVY CROCKETT'S DEADLY FIGHTING AND INSPIRED BATTLE CRY WHICH WON THE DAY!



REMEMBER THE ALAMO!

BANG!

BANG!

ONE THING YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT...THIS LAD OF OURS HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR! FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH...ALAMO...SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR...

THERE'S MORE IN HERE...BUT I'M NOT LAUGHING! LOOK...



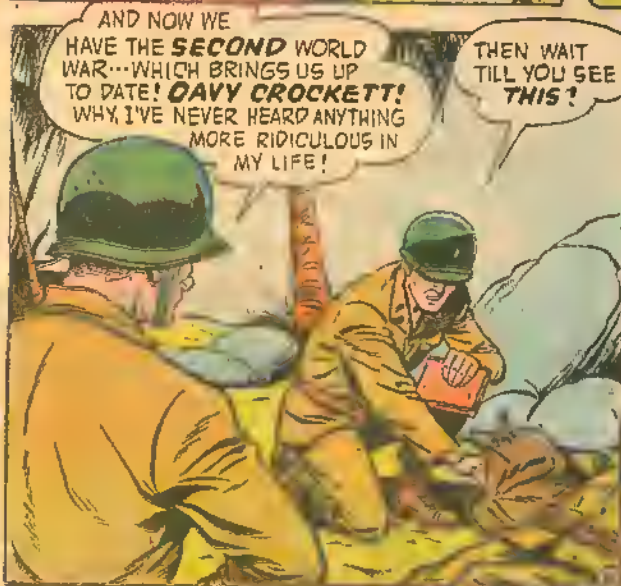
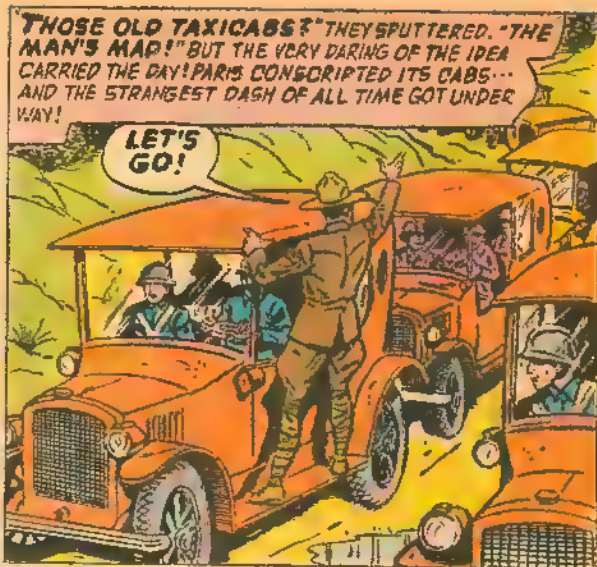
It's hard to keep up with the way time is passing, and to believe that this is 1914. It's another war man... once again, you fighting against, in the memory of my long dead comrades. We're lost too...the Germans are only 14 miles from Paris...

WE NEED MANPOWER THERE TO PREVENT A COMPLETE BREAKTHROUGH!

THERE ARE TROOPS HERE IN PARIS...BUT NO TRANSPORT TO MOVE THEM TO THE FRONT IN TIME!

MERBE YUH LACK REGULAR ARMY TRANSPORT--BUT WHO SAYS YUH GOTTA USE THAT?







RIDICULOUS!
WHAT DOES THAT PROVE
...EXCEPT THAT THE MAN
WAS DAFT, TOUCHED ON
THE SUBJECT OF DAVY
CROCKETT?

QUIET, COLONEL!
HE...HE SEEMS TO
BE REGAINING
CONSCIOUSNESS!



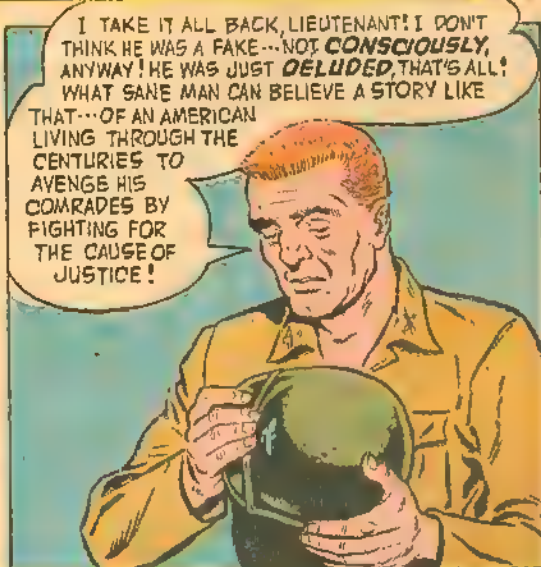
I WON'T GIVE YOU THE LINE ABOUT GETTING BETTER,
SOLDIER...YOU KNOW THE SCORE YOURSELF! BUT
THANKS...FOR SAVING GENERAL McDUGAL FROM
THE JAPS AND HELPING TO MAKE VICTORY POSSIBLE!
IS...IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY BEFORE...?

YES...TELL THEM...TO
KEEP ON FIGHTING THE
TYRANTS AND THE
TRAITORS...TELL
THEM TO...



...REMEMBER
...THE ALAMO...

HE'S...
GONE!

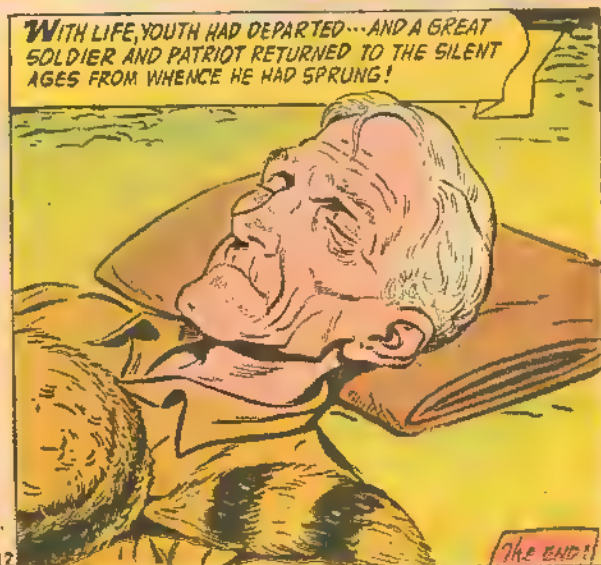


I TAKE IT ALL BACK, LIEUTENANT! I DON'T
THINK HE WAS A FAKE...NOT **CONSCIOUSLY**,
ANYWAY! HE WAS JUST **DELUDED**, THAT'S ALL!
WHAT SANE MAN CAN BELIEVE A STORY LIKE
THAT...OF AN AMERICAN
LIVING THROUGH THE
CENTURIES TO
AVENGE HIS
COMRADES BY
FIGHTING FOR
THE CAUSE OF
JUSTICE!



...AND THAT BUSINESS
OF THE **FOUNTAIN OF
YOUTH**, ALLOWING A MAN
TO LIVE FOR CENTURIES...
AND BECOME OLD ONLY
WHEN HE DIES VIOLENTLY...

**GREAT
HEAVENS!
LOOK AT
HIM!**



**WITH LIFE, YOUTH HAD DEPARTED...AND A GREAT
SOLDIER AND PATRIOT RETURNED TO THE SILENT
AGES FROM WHENCE HE HAD SPRUNG!**

The END!

Never BREAK a MIRROR!

"Wanted: Young man without family ties willing to invest all his time and efforts in project guaranteed to return millions."

This was the advertisement that John Ransome had answered some twenty years ago. The advertiser was old Henry Armistead, the eccentric millionaire, who lived by himself in a tumbledown mansion. He seemed on his last legs when John first saw him, and he had an interesting proposition to offer. Briefly, he wanted someone to take care of him, to wait on him hand and foot for the little time he had left. In return for such faithful service, he promised to leave his entire fortune to whomever took the job. John accepted it without hesitation. The old man had nobody but a distant cousin who was wealthy in his own right. Moreover, Henry Armistead might be eccentric, but he had a reputation for keeping his word. "I'll make out my will right now, leaving you everything if you'll care for me during my few remaining days on earth," he promised. "I'll show you the will—and you have my word that I won't destroy or change it as long as you live up to your part of the bargain!"

He produced the will, then, and John was satisfied. It was a huge reward for the short time in which he'd have to serve, he figured.

But he was wrong—terribly wrong. Old Henry, it turned out, had a greedy hold on life—and just kept on living! The faithfulness with which John worked for him had a lot to do with that, and you'd think the old man would be grateful. But his was a mean and malevolent nature. He figured John wouldn't walk out with so much at stake—so he lost no opportunity to make his life miserable. Not satisfied with working John half to death, he twitted and harassed him in every possible way. Learning that John was superstitious, particularly about mirrors, he'd taunt him with a continual barrage of "Never break a mirror, John! It's bad luck, see? *Never break a mirror!*" And to emphasize his point, he'd waggle in John's face a beautiful, antique hand mirror. It was particularly distressing because John really *did* have a horror of breaking mirrors. But he swallowed his suffering—just as he swallowed much during the twenty years in which he served Henry Armistead faithfully.

And now, after twenty years of slavery, he was free. His malignant master was dead at last, having lived far beyond what John had expected when he entered his service. Now he would reap his reward—the Armistead millions! But then—something terrible happened. The will—it *was nowhere to be found!* Oh, the old man had lived up to his promise, to be sure. Hadn't he made out his will, naming John as sole heir, and shown it to him? And being a man of his word, he probably hadn't destroyed or changed it—just placed it where it would never be found, that was all! The motivation? Meanness. . . malevolence! And now the distant cousin, as the sole surviving relative, would inherit all. "Be at my office this afternoon at 2," the lawyer phoned. "You'll have to hand over the keys to the heir!"

So he was to be cast out, a pauper, after all these years. What a fool he'd been, to be taken in by lying promises! Griefstricken, he wandered into the old man's room, to make one last, despairing search for the will—but it was fruitless. He turned to leave, but stopped as he caught sight of Henry Armistead's portrait on the wall. How the eyes seemed to burn into his, mocking him! Suddenly, he was seized by a blind hatred; the feeling that he had to *throw* something at that hated face! He picked up the first object at hand—the old man's antique hand mirror. And in memory, the nagging accents returned to him. "Never break a mirror, John! It's bad luck, see? *Never break a mirror!*" How Armistead had tortured him for his superstition, knowing that John *wouldn't* break mirrors! But how did it stand now? He'd never broken a mirror—had his luck been good? Gritting his teeth, the sweat standing out on his brow, he flung the mirror blindly—straight towards the old man's portrait!

It was 2 o'clock when John Ransome entered the lawyer's office. "I didn't bring the keys," he apologized. "You see—I've found the will that leaves everything to me!"

"Where'd you ever locate it?" gasped the lawyer.

"Among the pieces of the antique mirror it had been hidden in," answered John quietly.



BOYS-GIRLS-MEN-WOMEN-
 Boy and Girl Scouts-Camp Fire Girls-News Boys!

PRIZES GIVEN

MAKE MONEY TOO!

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page... or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, air-rifles, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, scout equipment, model airplanes, movie machines, record players, and many others... all **WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST**. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need ON TRUST. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35¢... sell on eight. You can make big cash commissions or get many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Other prizes for selling 2 sets or more. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you FREE.

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!



Here's How You Get Your Prizes
 Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 Mottos ON TRUST. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$2.00 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to EARN MONEY, send \$2.00 and keep \$2.00. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE.

FREE Membership in FUNman's Fun Club
 EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 10 days, and I'll give you free a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—plus extra surprises!

\$1,000.00 IN EXTRA PRIZES!
 You can get most prizes on this page by selling just one set of 24 Religious Wall Mottos. In addition, I offer these wonderful BIG prizes! I'll tell you how you may win! All details sent free along with 24 Mottos I send you on credit.
 24 MOTTOS ON CREDIT

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!
 The FUNman, Dept. C-159, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

FLIGHT *into* NOWHERE!

FOR CLOSING
IN ON FIELD!
FLIGHTS TO
PHILADELPHIA
AND LOS ANGELES
STILL OPEN!

\$200,000!
SUPPOSE I DON'T
DELIVER IT? SUPPOSE
I TAKE THE LOS
ANGELES PLANE?
I COULD BE
RICH...

FOR 15 YEARS I'D BEEN
A TRUSTED EMPLOYEE
OF THE CHESTERTON
DIAMOND COMPANY!
NOW MY TASK WAS TO
DELIVER A \$200,000
LOAD OF JEWELS TO
PHILADELPHIA! I'D JUST
RECOVERED FROM AN
ILLNESS AND STILL
WASN'T THINKING
STRAIGHT...



I'D NEVER HAD A DISHONEST THOUGHT IN MY LIFE, UNTIL
NOW... WHEN WITH BECLOUDED MIND...

ONE WAY TO
LOS ANGELES,
PLEASE!

THE PLANE
LEAVES IN THREE
MINUTES ON RUNWAY
5... YOU'D BETTER
HURRY!



MY HEART BEGAN TO POUND WITH FRIGHT! MISTS WERE
SWIRLING ON THE FIELD, AND FEAR CLUTCHED AT MY
INSIDES...

I... I MUSTN'T
GIVE MYSELF AWAY!
I'VE GOT TO KEEP
CALM!



MY KNEES FELT WEAK AND MY HEAD WAS SPINNING AS
I STARTED RUNNING FRANTICALLY TOWARD THE PLANE...

WAIT!
I'M COMING!
HOLD IT!



I FELL INTO MY SEAT HELPLESSLY AND TRIED TO GET
A GRIP ON MYSELF! WHEN WE WERE AIRBORNE...

IT'S DONE!
AND THERE'S NO
TURNING
BACK!



I FELT GUILTY, TERRIBLY GUILTY, AND MY FINGERS TWITCHED! THE PASSENGER BESIDE ME SUDDENLY TURNED WITH A STRANGE SMILE...

HERVOUS, ROGER? I DON'T BLAME YOU...YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!



INSTANTLY, ALL HEADS HAD TURNED TO ME, AND THE CABIN WAS FILLED WITH WILD LAUGHTER...

SEE? EVERYBODY KNOWS IT...THE POLICE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU TO ARRIVE!



I BOUNDED OUT OF MY SEAT LIKE A MANIAC...

WHO ARE YOU? TELL ME!

HE WANTS TO KNOW WHO WE ARE! HA-HA! WE'RE WITNESSES!



HO! NO! PLEASE! TAKE IT-- I'M NO CRIMINAL! I--I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY HEAD!



TOO LATE, ROGER! REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID...THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!

BUT PERHAPS THERE WAS A WAY OUT! FRANTICALLY I RUSHED INTO THE PILOT'S CABIN--

TURN BACK! THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I TOOK THE WRONG FLIGHT!



SORRY, BUDDY...YOU BOUGHT A ONE-WAY TICKET!

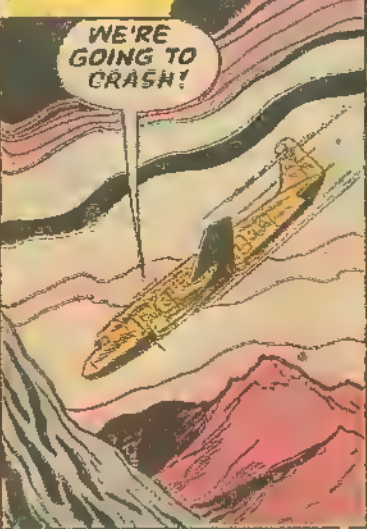
THE PRISONERS' STRIPES THEY WORE-- WAS IT AN OMEN OF WHAT I FACED? I KNEW I HAD TO STOP THEM...



I--I'LL MAKE YOU TURN BACK!

HEY! LEGGO THE WHEEL! WE'RE GOING INTO A SPIN!

NEXT MOMENT...



WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

WE'RE GOING TO CRASH! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!



TAKE IT EASY, MISTER! YOU FAINTED WHILE RUNNING TOWARD THE PLANE!

GROGGILY I GOT TO MY FEET, UNABLE TO BELIEVE MY GOOD FORTUNE! MY NERVES HAD GOTTEN THE BETTER OF ME, AND EVERYTHING I'D EXPERIENCED HAD BEEN JUST A HALLUCINATION... I THOUGHT!

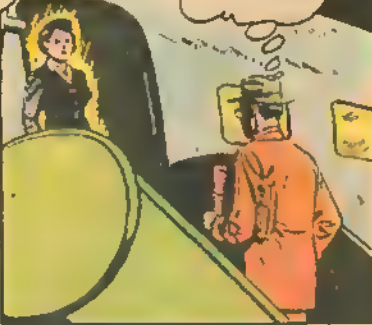
BETTER GET ABOARD, SIR! WE'VE BEEN HOLDING THE LOS ANGELES FLIGHT FOR YOU!

N-NO, THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE! I WANT TO GO TO PHILADELPHIA!



MOMENTS LATER, ANOTHER TICKET PURCHASED...

I'M NO CRIMINAL... I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY! I'VE GOT A GOOD JOB... I DON'T NEED THESE JEWELS! THANK HEAVENS FOR THIS SECOND CHANCE!



INTENSELY RELIEVED, I TOOK MY SEAT. I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW VIVID MY HALLUCINATION HAD BEEN, HOW VERY REAL... WHEN SUDDENLY...

FASTEN SEAT BELTS, PLEASE!

GOOD HEAVENS! THAT MAN... HE'S THE ONE WHO WAS SITTING BESIDE ME IN THE OTHER PLANE!



NOW I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK! AS THE PLANE STREAKED THROUGH THE SKIES...

PERHAPS I'M GOING MAD! IF THE OTHER PLANE NEVER EXISTED... WHO IS THAT MAN?



THE MAN MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SPEAK TO ME, AND WHEN WE ARRIVED IN PHILADELPHIA, I DELIVERED THE DIAMONDS IMMEDIATELY...

GOOD WORK, ROGER... RELIABLE AS USUAL! ANY TROUBLE GETTING HERE?

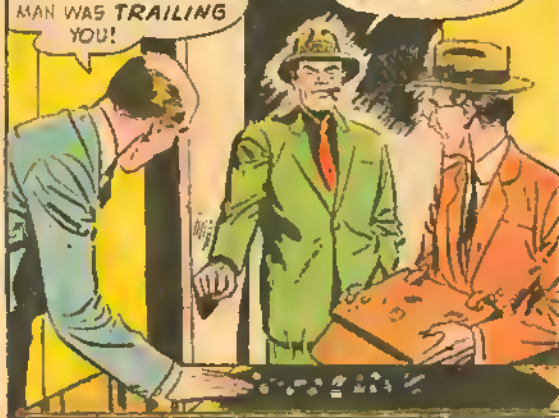
N-NO, SIR... NO TROUBLE AT ALL!



NEXT MOMENT...

AH, COME IN, JONES! MEET ROGER SMITH! ROGER, YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT, BUT THIS MAN WAS TRAILING YOU!

JUST IN CASE YOU RAN INTO THIEVES, MR. SMITH! AFTER ALL, THERE COULDN'T BE ANY QUESTION OF YOUR HONESTY!



RIGHT... ROGER HERE IS OUR MOST TRUSTED MESSENGER!

SURE! HE'D HAVE TO BE OUT OF HIS MIND TO TRY ANYTHING DISHONEST!



MY HEAD BEGAN TO SPIN AGAIN, FOR I'D NEVER SEEN JONES BEFORE THAT IMAGINARY LOS ANGELES FLIGHT! AND IF MY EXPERIENCE HADN'T BEEN A HALLUCINATION... HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT?



BUILD A BODY OF STEEL WITH "SUPERMAN 23-WAY SPRING MUSCLE BUILDING SET"

START DEVELOPING A SUPERHEROIC BODY
WITHIN 30 DAYS

ONLY
\$2

BECOME AN ALL-AROUND
HE-MAN — BUILDS
SHOULDERS, BICEPS, STOMACH



MUSCLES, ETC.

YOU TOO
CAN BE TOUGH



Simply by opening and closing your hand
strongly a few times each day, you'll develop
a pair of hands so powerful that you can defend
yourself successfully against any enemy or bully
that might dare attack you. Subdue them with
your grip alone.

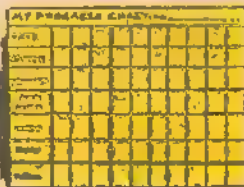
Just a few minutes a day with the "Superman Steel Muscle Building Set" and you'll be the strongest and most popular fellow in the neighborhood! You'll earn the respect and envy of all the fellows when they see your muscular neck, mighty chest, bulging biceps and triceps, your strong back and broad shoulders developed by this wonderful, new physical developer. You'll fear no one as your two hand strengtheners develop your forearms, toughen your hands, and build strong pliable wrists. And, you'll keep your legs sturdy, your stomach hard and flat. And won't all the girls be thrilled when they see how handsome and powerful you look and what an all around winner you become. You'll keep fit, healthy and full of self-confidence as you develop in these 10 vital areas. So get ready now to handle the rush of new admirers and friends you're bound to get as you start to earn Superman's title as the "Man of Steel". Remember, the "Superman Muscle Building Set" can be carried by you wherever you go to assure you indoor or outdoor fun. — only \$2.98.

BECOME A POWERHOUSE
OF MUSCLES



DOUBLE BARREL USE FOR DOUBLE ACTION

Your sensational Superman Muscle Builder Set has a spring double-duty chest exerciser that you will use to develop arms and chest and also as a rail exerciser (with simple hook attachments supplied). This means you get twice the value of your money all at one extra cost. Dynamic power for you! You're really on the road to strength and admiration now. Don't delay. Only \$2.98.



MEASURE YOUR DEVELOPMENT

Included is a special Superman chart and tape that enables you to measure and record your physical development. See for yourself how quickly and easily your Superman Muscle Building Set develops you to dynamic proportions.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. A-257
35 Wilbur St. Lynbrook, N. Y.

Rest my complete 23-Way Muscle Building Set on me. If I am not completely satisfied I may return it for prompt refund of full purchase price.

- ☐ I enclose \$2.98 plus 50¢ shipping charge. Same money back guarantee.
- ☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay cash on delivery plus shipping charge.

Name: _____
Address: _____



30 DAY FREE TRIAL

30 DAY FREE TRIAL

We go so far that you will be delighted with your Superman 23-Way Muscle Building Set, we will refund your money without question in 30 days if you are not 100% delighted with results. Because of its large size, we are forced to ask for 50¢ shipping charges. Don't delay! Send Coupon Now!

From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

It beats all, the way time has of flying past. This month, it went so fast that we almost missed this session with you, our favorite folks! That *would* be a tragedy, at least for us—for there's nothing that pleases us better than to meet up with the countless thousands of readers from coast to coast who make up the loyal fans of "*Forbidden Worlds*"! But we *didn't* miss it, and that's what counts. At the last moment, we grabbed our hat and came on the run, and here we are, a little winded, but happy to be on hand to greet you!

We're going to have an interesting session, that's for sure. The reason that we're certain of it is that we've selected a fascinating subject for discussion. And that subject is *challenge*. Not like one man daring another to step across a line, or step outside, or anything like that. What we've got in mind is challenge as far as the telling of a story is concerned. That calls for presenting a plot so cleverly and daringly conceived as to stimulate the reader's imagination. It calls for originality, for narrative that's *different*, for the sort of reading that makes you, and others like you, sit up and take notice. And we, the editors, feel that we've been successful in injecting challenge into one of our yarns when our fans say, "Hey, you've *got* something here! That's a twist we wouldn't have thought of! Wonder how it's going to turn out!"

Challenge. That's our new byword. It will be our goal from beginning to end of every issue of "*Forbidden Worlds*" that we bring to you. We don't expect to be 100% successful—but it won't be for lack of trying. We've given our writers the green light—and you can be positive that they're durned good, imaginative and creative writers who know what the score is. We've told them what we want—and you, our readers, can

be the jury that decides their effectiveness. We're hoping we hit a high batting average—and we think we've done so in this issue. Let's take "*The Davy Crockett Mystery*," for instance. Thank Heavens for the inspiration of our favorite writer, who skillfully wove together the legends and folk lore which have sprung up about this greatest of all American heroes—and came up with a razzle-dazzle yarn that's challenging from beginning to end! You read it, and you ask yourself—could such things *really* exist? And you know you've read a story that's *different*! The same holds true for "*Stella and the Stranger*", which poses a terrific problem—would *you* sell out the world to become its ruler? We'd like to know your reactions to these stories. Write to The Editor, "*Forbidden Worlds*", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. If we have room, we'll publish your letter. Meanwhile, here's what some of our other readers are saying!

"Dear Editor:—

I've always liked reading '*Forbidden Worlds*', and feel that it's, by far the best magazine of its type published. Please tell me how I can go about getting a subscription. A loyal fan—

—Carol Bowers, Newark, Ohio"

"Dear Editor:—

Just a line to say that I go for the great stories '*Forbidden Worlds*' has been running. They're exciting, interesting and make sense.

—Steven Clark, New York, N. Y."

"Dear Editor:—

I'm a reader of many comics, but I feel that '*Forbidden Worlds*' is at the top of the heap. I like your covers and your drawing throughout. The same goes for the stories you run—congratulations!

—William O. Players, Austin, Tex."

The HAND of FATE!

THE TIME: DECEMBER 23, 1944... THE PLACE, BELEAGUERED BASTOGNE, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE...



SGT. JACK MILLER HAD NEVER CONSIDERED HIMSELF ESPECIALLY BRAVE, BUT HIS ACT WAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST HERDISM...



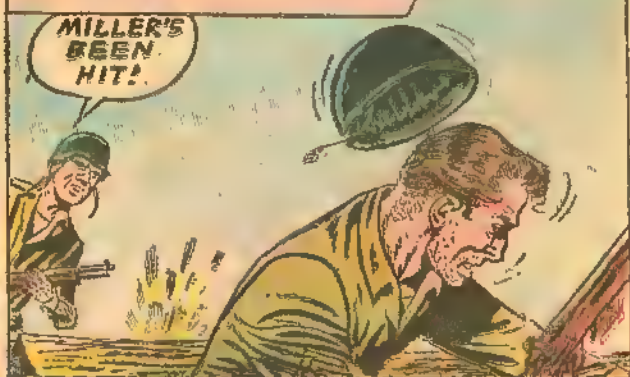
HE MANAGED TO REACH THE SIDE OF THE WOUNDED GI...



LUCK WAS WITH HIM...



WAR MOVES SWIFTLY AND MILLER NEVER EVEN LEARNED THE FATE OF THE SOLDIER HE HAD SAVED! THREE MONTHS LATER, FIGHTING IN THE HEART OF GERMANY...



HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS IN AN ARMY HOSPITAL...

I'M BLIND-FOLDED! DOES THAT MEAN...MY EYES...?

EASY, SERGEANT... WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN!



THE ARMY DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESTORE HIS SIGHT--BUT IT PROVED HOPELESS...

ISN'T THERE A CHANCE... SOME OPERATION PERHAPS...?

YOU'VE HAD FOUR ALREADY! I'M SORRY...BUT AT THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE'S NOTHING ANYBODY CAN DO!



NINE LONG YEARS PASSED...

I HATE TO SEE YOU BROODING LIKE THIS, DARLING!

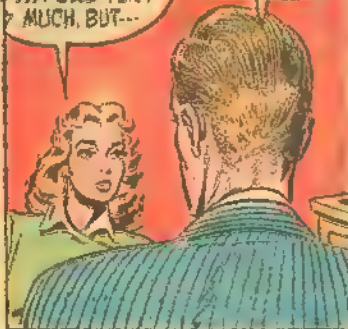
WHY SHOULDN'T I BROOD? I'M USE-LESS!



SUDDENLY, A RAY OF HOPE APPEARED...

DR. IVES, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'VE DEVELOPED A NEW OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUE ON CASES SUCH AS MY HUSBAND'S! WE CAN'T AFFORD VERY MUCH, BUT...

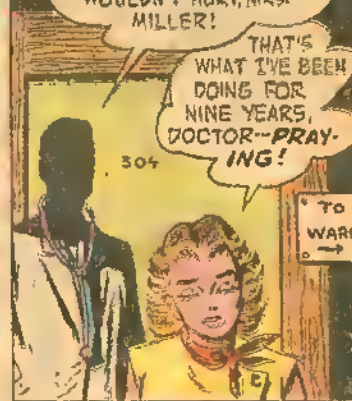
I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT MY FEE, MRS. MILLER! THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO RESTORE YOUR HUSBAND'S SIGHT... IF POSSIBLE!



IT WAS A LONG SHOT, BUT YOUNG DR. IVES ELECTED TO OPERATE! THOUGH ALREADY FAMOUS, HE HAD ONLY BEEN OUT OF MEDICAL SCHOOL SIX YEARS...

WELL, THE TIME HAS COME TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT'S BEEN A SUCCESS! A PRAYER WOULDN'T HURT, MRS. MILLER!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING FOR NINE YEARS, DOCTOR--PRAYING!



WHEN THE BANDAGES WERE REMOVED...

WELL...CAN YOU...SEE?

DOC!...I...NO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN SEE! AND YOU--YOU'RE THE MAN WHOSE LIFE I SAVED AT BASTOGNE!



Y-YOU? IT WAS YOU? YES, MY LIFE WAS SAVED AT BASTOGNE!

YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS ALL THE TIME... THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME HERE!



FATE...OR MERE COINCIDENCE? ASK JACK MILLER, WHOSE SIGHT WAS RESTORED BY THE MAN HE HAD GIVEN LIFE!

Stella AND THE STRANGER!

IT...IT'S OUT OF CONTROL! I'M GOING TO CRASH!

ON ANY CLEAR NIGHT, A WATCHER OF THE SKIES CAN SEE MULTITUDES OF SOLAR FLARES DARTING ACROSS THE DARK HEAVENS IN A MOMENT OF FIERY GLORY! BUT IS THIS PHENOMENON CAUSED BY METEORS ENTERING OUR ATMOSPHERE, AS SCIENCE SAYS... OR IS THERE SOME OTHER EXPLANATION?

JOHN GANTLEY

TRILLIONS OF MILES BEYOND THE GALAXY WE CALL THE MILKY WAY IS THE PLANET LEPTORA, ON WHICH CLIMATIC CONDITIONS MAKE LIFE POSSIBLE...

GENTLEMEN, GENTLEMEN... MODERATION, PLEASE!

I KNOW I AM RIGHT! AFTER ALL, WHO UNDERSTANDS FRICTION FACTORS BETTER THAN I?

THE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND POLITICIANS HAD GONE ON FOR HOURS... AND ALL WERE OPPOSED TO THE THEORY OF THE BRILLIANT YOUNG TRAINE...

AS MINISTER OF WAR, I OPPOSE SENDING ANY FURTHER SCOUTING PARTIES TO THE PLANET EARTH! WE'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR 30 YEARS... AND LOST EVERY ROCKET!

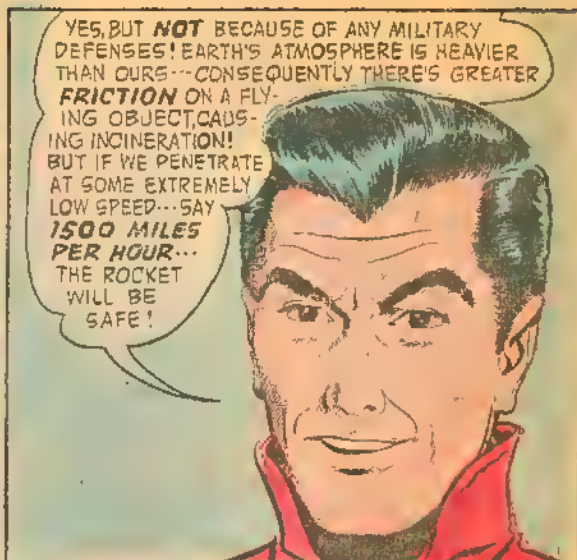
BUT I'VE EXPLAINED WHY!





WE KNOW THAT EARTH IS FIT FOR COLONIZATION --AND I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE CONQUERING IT!

WELL, I'M **NOT!** THEIR SCIENCE **MUST** BE AS GOOD AS OURS! OUR ROCKETS HAVE BEEN BURNED TO ASHES BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN LAND!



YES, BUT **NOT** BECAUSE OF ANY MILITARY DEFENSES! EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IS HEAVIER THAN OURS --CONSEQUENTLY THERE'S GREATER **FRICTION** ON A FLYING OBJECT CAUSING INCINERATION! BUT IF WE PENETRATE AT SOME EXTREMELY LOW SPEED -- SAY **1500 MILES PER HOUR** -- THE ROCKET WILL BE **SAFE!**

ON AND ON WENT THE DISPUTE, TILL FINALLY...

TRAINE, WE ALL DISAGREE WITH YOU -- BUT SINCE YOU'RE SO **SURE** YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU CAN MAKE THE TRIP YOURSELF -- IN A **ONE-MAN ROCKET!**

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT -- THAT'S ALL I ASK!

AS THE CONFERENCE BROKE UP...

YOUNG TRAINE IS AMBITIOUS -- AND RUTHLESS! I BELIEVE HE CONSIDERS US ALL FOOLS!

HE'S GOT A HARD CHARACTER -- FRANKLY, I DISLIKE HIM!

WHILE HIS ROCKET WAS BEING FITTED FOR ITS LONG JOURNEY, TRAINE BEGAN TO ACCUSTOM HIMSELF TO THE OXYGEN DENSITY HE WOULD ENCOUNTER ON EARTH.

STILL IN THE CHAMBER, EH? TELL ME, TRAINE, SUPPOSE THEY **DO** HAVE AN ADVANCED CIVILIZATION!

BUT THEY DON'T! I'VE SEEN METEORS FROM SPACE BURN TO A CRISP IN THEIR ATMOSPHERE -- JUST LIKE OUR SHIPS! THE WHOLE TRICK IS NOT TO ENTER IT TOO FAST!

WEEKS LATER...

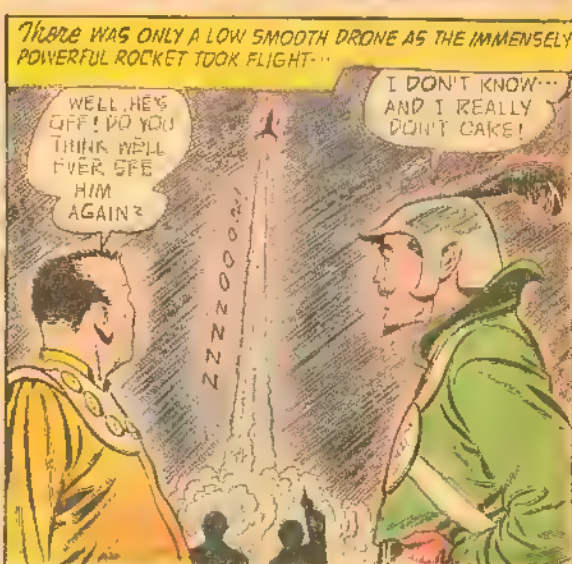
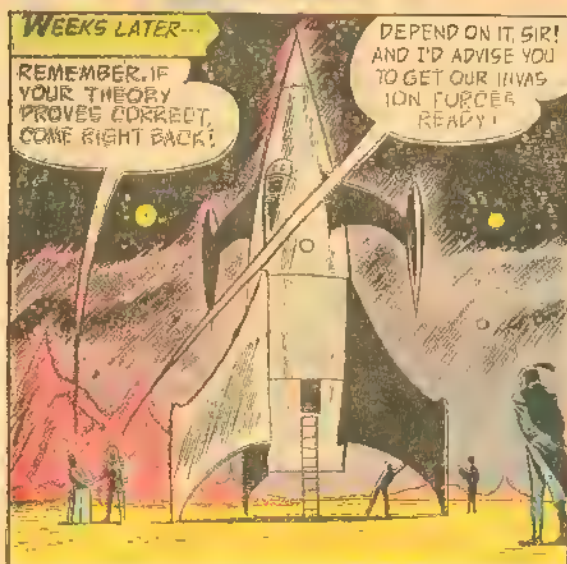
REMEMBER, IF YOUR THEORY PROVES CORRECT, COME RIGHT BACK!

DEPEND ON IT, SIR! AND I'D ADVISE YOU TO GET OUR INVASION FORCES READY!

There was only a low smooth drone as the immensely powerful rocket took flight --

WELL, HE'S OFF! DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?

I DON'T KNOW -- AND I REALLY DON'T CARE!



FOLLOWING HIS CURVILINEAR COSMIC MAPS, TRANE SHOT ALONG THE PARABOLIC CURVE LEADING TO HIS DESTINATION...

DURING THE IMMESE REACHES OF SPACE ITSELF... THIS IS **LIVING!**



CLOUDS OF DUST MILLIONS OF MILES LONG FLASHED BY! THEN... AT LAST...

AH, THERE'S SATURN... ALMOST MISSED IT! EARTH WILL BE COMING UP SOON!



TRANE CUT SPEED SHARPLY AS HIS DESTINATION CAME INTO VIEW! FOR HOURS HE CIRCLED THE EDGE OF THE ATMOSPHERE AGAIN AND AGAIN...

WELL, NOBODY'S SHOOTING AT ME... JUST AS I THOUGHT! NOW TO **PENETRATE**... AT ONLY 1500 MILES PER HOUR!



FOR ALL TRANE KNEW, THE FOLLOWING MOMENTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIS LAST, BUT HIS PULSE NEVER QUICKENED! PASSING FROM EMPTY SPACE INTO THE THICKENING ATMOSPHERE, A STEADY ROAR ROSE FROM OUTSIDE...

I... I DID IT! THERE'S PLENTY OF BUFFETING AND FRICTION... BUT NOTHING SERIOUS! I WAS **ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!**



HIS ORDERS WERE TO RETURN TO LEPTORA INSTANTLY, BUT HIS CURIOSITY FORCED HIM DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EARTH...

HMMM, QUITE INTERESTING VEGETATION! STRANGE SORT OF CLOUD AHEAD... WONDER WHAT IT CAN BE!



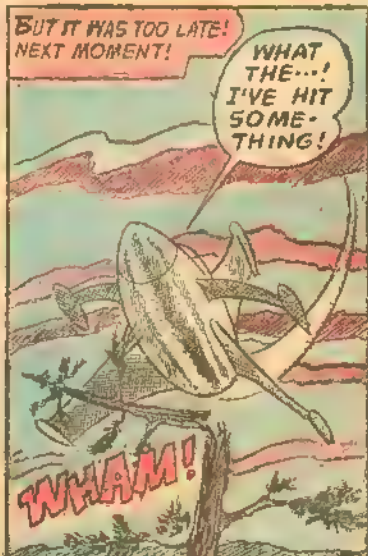
HE HAD RUN INTO RISING GROUND FOG... COMMON TO THE COLORADO ROCKIES! BUT TO TRANE IT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE...

CAN'T SEE A THING... NOTHING LIKE THIS ON LEPTORA! BETTER GET SOME ALTITUDE... **FAST!**



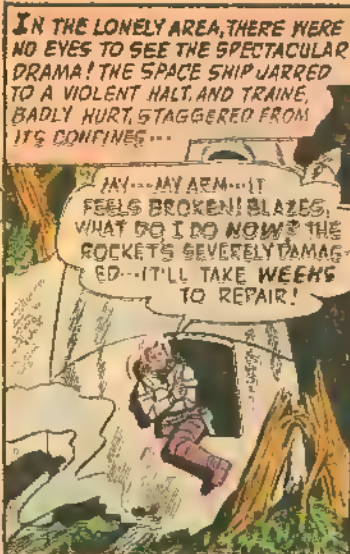
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! NEXT MOMENT!

WHAT THE...! I'VE HIT SOMETHING!

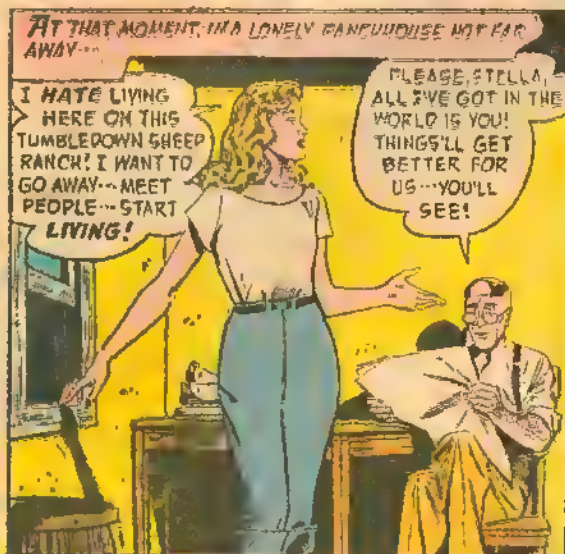




I...I'M GOING TO CRASH!



HA...MY ARM...IT FEELS BROKEN! BLAZES, WHAT DO I DO NOW? THE ROCKET'S SEVERELY DAMAGED--IT'LL TAKE WEEKS TO REPAIR!

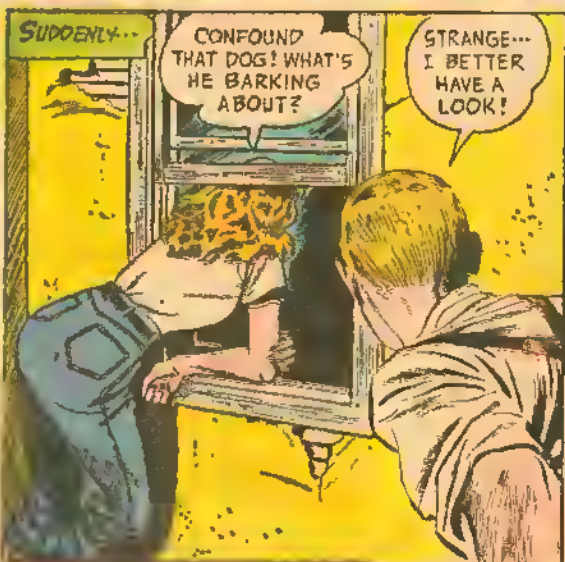


I HATE LIVING HERE ON THIS TUMBLEDOWN SHEEP RANCH! I WANT TO GO AWAY--MEET PEOPLE--START LIVING!

PLEASE, STELLA, ALL I'VE GOT IN THE WORLD IS YOU! THINGS'LL GET BETTER FOR US--YOU'LL SEE!

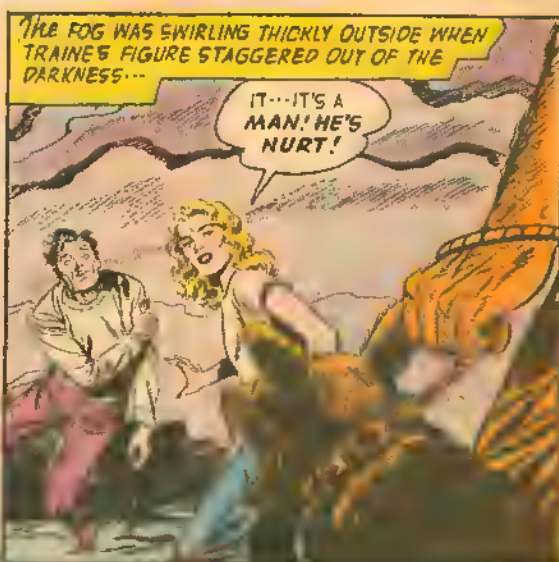


DON'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ANY ONE BUT YOURSELF?



CONFOUND THAT DOG! WHAT'S HE BARKING ABOUT?

STRANGE... I BETTER HAVE A LOOK!



IT...IT'S A MAN! HE'S HURT!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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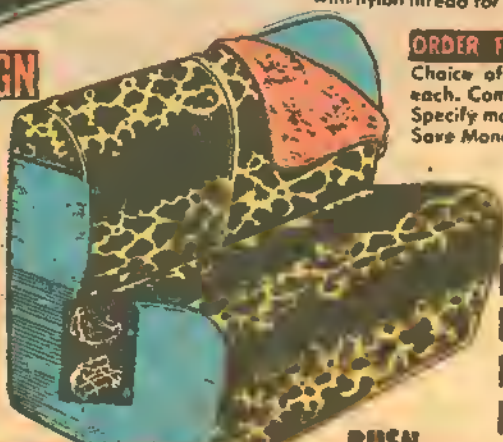
LEATHER DESIGN

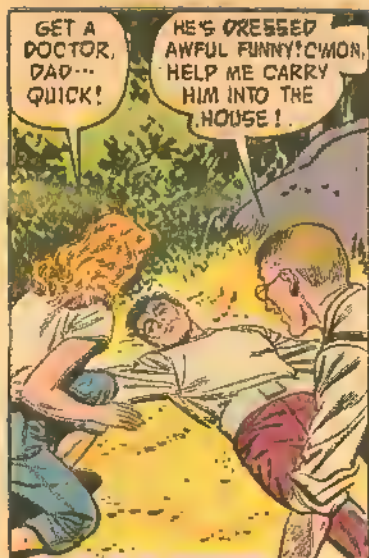
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GET A DOCTOR, DAD... QUICK!

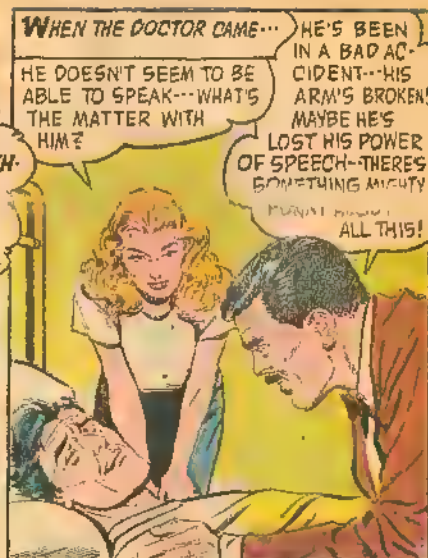
HE'S DRESSED AWFUL FUNNY! C'MON, HELP ME CARRY HIM INTO THE HOUSE!



SEVERAL MINUTES PASSED BEFORE TRAIINE REVIVED! THE FATHER HAD ALREADY GONE OFF FOR HELP...

TAKE IT EASY, MISTER...THERE'LL BE A DOCTOR HERE SOON! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

SHE SPEAKS IN THE TONGUE OF THE EARTH-LINGS... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD! I MUSTN'T GIVE MYSELF AWAY!



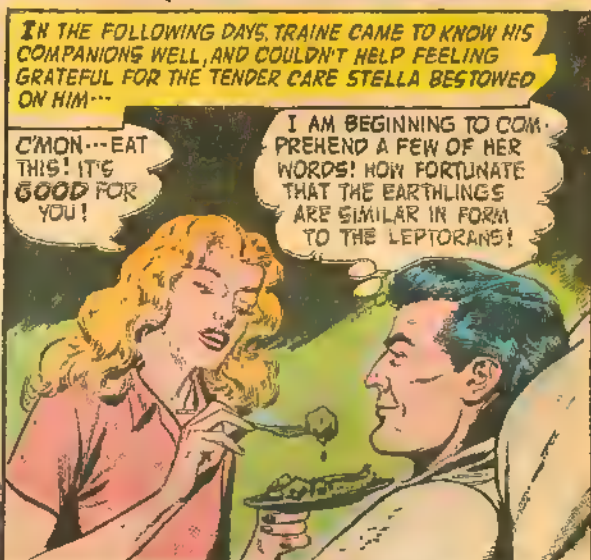
WHEN THE DOCTOR CAME... HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK...WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?

HE'S BEEN IN A BAD ACCIDENT--HIS ARM'S BROKEN! MAYBE HE'S LOST HIS POWER OF SPEECH--THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY ALL THIS!



I'D RATHER NOT MOVE HIM TO A HOSPITAL YET! CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM HERE?

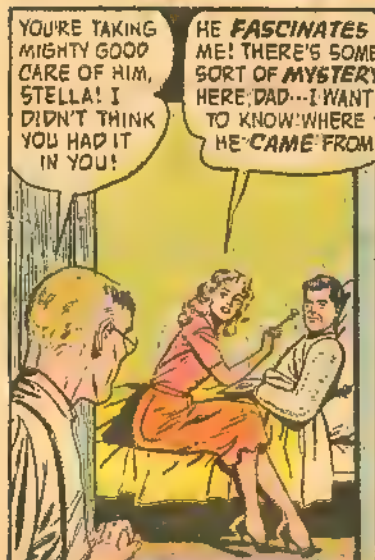
YES... I GUESS SO! POOR FELLOW... I WONDER WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED!



IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, TRAIINE CAME TO KNOW HIS COMPANIONS WELL, AND COULDN'T HELP FEELING GRATEFUL FOR THE TENDER CARE STELLA BESTOWED ON HIM...

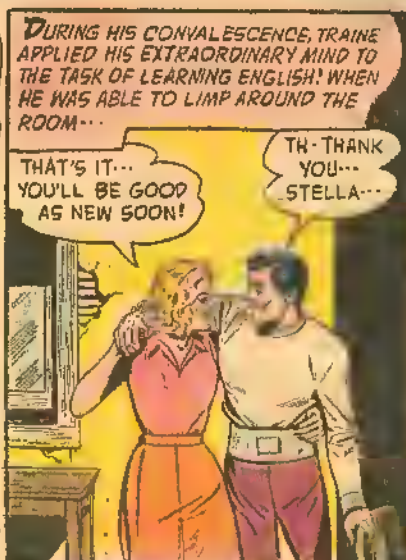
C'MON...EAT THIS! IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

I AM BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND A FEW OF HER WORDS! HOW FORTUNATE THAT THE EARTHLINGS ARE SIMILAR IN FORM TO THE LEPTORANS!



YOU'RE TAKING MIGHTY GOOD CARE OF HIM, STELLA! I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD IT IN YOU!

HE FASCINATES ME! THERE'S SOME SORT OF MYSTERY HERE, DAD... I WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM!



DURING HIS CONVALESCENCE, TRAIINE APPLIED HIS EXTRAORDINARY MIND TO THE TASK OF LEARNING ENGLISH! WHEN HE WAS ABLE TO LIMP AROUND THE ROOM...

THAT'S IT... YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW SOON!

THANK YOU... STELLA...



HUH? SO YOU CAN SPEAK!

A...A FEW WORDS! MY NAME... TRAIINE!

ONE MONTH LATER...

WELL, TRANE, YOU'RE COMPLETELY RECOVERED! BUT DON'T YOU REMEMBER A THING ABOUT WHERE YOU CAME FROM... WHO YOU ARE?

ONLY...MY NAME! IT IS... WHAT YOU SAID... **AMNESIA!**

UNTIL HE COULD FORMULATE A PLAN TO REPAIR HIS ROCKET SHIP AND SO RETURN TO LEPTORA, TRANE HAD DECIDED TO SIMULATE A TOTAL LOSS OF MEMORY! BUT HE AROUSED CONSIDERABLE "CURIOSITY"...

THERE'S SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT HIM! COULD BE HE'S EVEN A FOREIGN SPY!

DON'T TALK THAT WAY IN FRONT OF STELLA--SHE'S SWEET ON HIM!

YES, STELLA HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE HANDSOME STRANGER! THEY TOOK LONG WALKS TOGETHER...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN BY LOVE, TRANE? THAT'S HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! OH, IF YOU WOULD ONLY UNDERSTAND!

I--DO UNDERSTAND! LOVE-- I LOVE YOU... YES-- I LOVE--

THE FEELING OF TENDER PROTECTIVENESS WAS NEW TO TRANE! IT HAD CREATED COMPLICATIONS IN HIS PLANS...

OH, DARLING, DARLING... IF ONLY I KNEW WHO YOU WERE!

I--WILL TELL YOU! COME WITH ME...

TRANE LED HER UP THE LONG MOUNTAIN SLOPE TOWARD WHERE HIS ROCKET HAD FALLEN! IN HIS BROKEN ENGLISH, HE TOLD HER HE HAD COME FROM ANOTHER PLANET...

YOU--YOU'RE KIDDING! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

IT--IS! YOU WILL SEE!

GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S A ROCKET SHIP!

AS I SAID! BUT I MUST REPAIR IT... AND I NEED YOUR HELP!

INSIDE THE DRAFT--

IT--IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! YOU SAY YOU CAN FIX ALL THIS?

YES, BUT I'LL NEED QUANTITIES OF TRITIUM AND PLATINUM COILS! FORTUNATELY, THIS INTERSTELLAR GYROSCOPIC ELECTRO-METER IS INTACT... HAD IT BEEN RUINED, I'D NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIX IT, SINCE THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED COULD NOT BE DUPLICATED ON EARTH!

THE QUESTION IS... CAN YOU BUY THESE THINGS FOR ME? I HAVE NO EARTH MONEY!

TRANE, THESE SHATTERED FRAGMENTS... THEY LOOK LIKE CHUNKS OF DIAMOND!



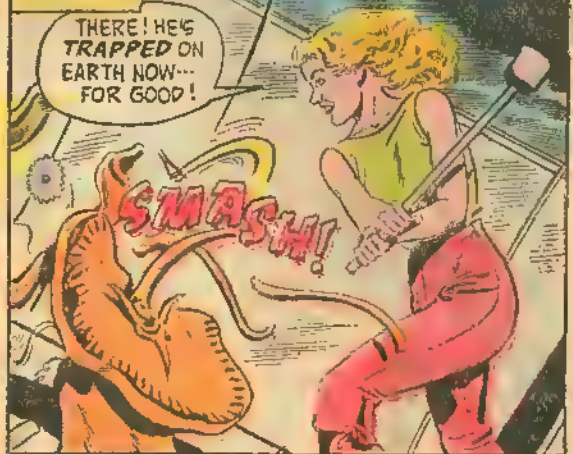
IT WAS TOWARD DAWN THAT SHE CAME TO A DECISION...

HE MAY HATE ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO... BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE! MAYBE I WAS AMBITIOUS, REACHING FOR THE MOON! BUT I DON'T WANT THE EARTH... NOT AT THAT COST!



THE INTERSTELLAR GYROSCOPIC ELECTRO-METER! SHE REMEMBERED WHAT TRAINE HAD SAID... THAT IF DESTROYED, IT COULD NEVER BE REPLACED ON EARTH!

THERE! HE'S TRAPPED ON EARTH NOW... FOR GOOD!



HOURS LATER, WHEN SHE TOLD HIM WHAT SHE HAD DONE...

YOU WHAT? I... I OUGHT TO... YOU FOOL!

CAN'T YOU SEE? I LOVE YOU... BUT I'D HAVE TO BE INSANE, CRUEL TO LET YOU GO THROUGH WITH IT!



FRANTICALLY, TRAINE RAN TO INSPECT THE DAMAGE...

IT'S HOPELESS! I COULD NEVER REPAIR THAT! STELLA, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

YES, AND I'M GLAD! DARLING, LOVING YOU HAS MADE A BETTER PERSON OF ME! I DON'T WANT TO BRING ANY TRAGEDY TO THE WORLD!



THEN... WHAT IS THERE LEFT FOR ME... NOW?

OUR LOVE! FORGET WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR... AND LET'S LIVE A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS... TOGETHER!



YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT, DARLING! BESIDES, I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO YOUR SCIENCE HERE ON EARTH!

OF COURSE! AND IT'S MUCH BETTER TO BE A BENEFACTOR THAN A HATED CONQUEROR!



ON LEPTORA, THREE YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE TRAINE'S DEPARTURE...

HIS THEORY WAS WRONG! HE'LL NEVER RETURN!

YES, THE SCIENCE OF EARTH MUST BE AT LEAST AS GOOD AS OURS! WE'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT EVER INVADING THE PLANET... IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!



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